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JEPHTHA, K

AN

ORATORIO.

ZEDUL, his Brothe

SACRED DRAMA

As it is Performed at the

IPHIS, his Daughter.

THEATRE-ROYAL

IN

COVENT-GARDEN.

The MUSICK Compos'd by Mr. HANDEL.

LONDON:

Printed for J. WATTS: And Sold by B. Dod at the Bible and Key in Ave-Mary-Lane near Stationers-Hall; and the Booksellers of London and Westminster. 1762.

PARTER AND THE PARTER AND THE PARTERS

[Price One Shilling.]

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

A. M

ЈЕРНТНА.

ZEBUL, his Brother.

STORGE', his Wife.

IPHIS, his Daughter.

HAMOR, in love with Iphis.

Chorus of Ifnaelites.



JEPHTHA.

Peletral Carlle W. A. artista, A. C. S. al. Co.

CHEST STEPPERSONS STEPPED !

CHORUS. BY FIND HORUS AKING A.

In difered Sames about Noe Persones bine.

SACRED DRAMA.

PART I. SCENE I.

ZEBUL, with his Brethren, &c.

RECITATIVE dela TILLES

Our lordly Tyrants now these eighteen Years, Will crush the Race of Israel. [Choice, Since Heav'n vouchsafes not, with immediate To point us out a Leader, as before,

Chemon no more

Ourselves must choose.—And who so fit a Man moo I I As Gilead's Son, our Brother, valiant Jephrha?—Juoiled True, we have slighted, scorn'd, expell'd him hence, as of a Stranger born; but well I know him; His generous Soul disdains a mean Revenge, When his distressful Country calls his Aid.—And, perhaps, God may savour our Request, If with repentant Hearts we sue for Mercy.

AIR.

No more pour forth unheeded Pray'rs
To Idols deaf, and vain:
No more with vile unhallow'd Airs,
The facred Rites profane.

CHO-

CHORUS.

No more to Ammon's God and King,
Fierce Moloch, shall our Cymbals ring,
In dismal Dance about the Furnace blue.
Chemosh no more
Will we adore,
With timbrell'd Anthems, to Jehovah due.

S C E N E II.

Enter Jephtha, Storge, &c.
RECITATIVE.

Zebul. But Jephtha comes.—KindHeav'n assist our Plea-O Jephtha, with an Eye of Pity, look
On thy repentant Brethren in Distress.
Forgetful of thy Wrongs, redress thy Sire,
Thy Friends, thy Country, in extreme Despair.
Jephtha. Iwill:—so please it Heaven; and these the Terms:
If I command in War, the like Command,
Should Heav'n vouchsafe us a victorious Peace,
Shall still be mine.—
Zebul. Agreed.—Be witness, Heav'n.

A I R.

Jephtha. Virtue my Soul shall still embrace;
Goodness shall make me great.
Who builds upon this steady Base,

Dreads no Event of Fate.

RECITATIVE.

Storge. 'Twill be a painful Separation, Jephtha, To see Thee harness'd for the bloody Field. But ah! how trivial are a Wife's Concerns,

When

When a whole Nation bleeds, and grovling lies, Panting for Liberty and Life.

of and black of the date was funished

In gentle Murmurs will I mourn,
As mourns the Mate-forsaken Dove;
And sighing wish thy dear Return
To Liberty, and lasting Love. [Exeunt.

S C E N E HI

Enter Hamor and Iphis.

OMERICO VALUE RECEITATIVE. OUL SOME

Hamor. Happy this Embassy, my charming Iphis, Which once more gives thee to my longing Eyes. As Cynthia breaking from long-darkning Clouds On the benighted Traveller; the Sight Of Thee, my Love, drives Darkness and Despair. Again I live; in thy sweet Smiles I live; As in thy Father's ever-watchful Care Our wretched Nation feels new Life, new Joy. O haste; and make my Happiness complete.

A LR.

Dull Delay, in piercing Anguish,
Bids thy faithful Lover languish;
While he pants for Bliss in vain.
Oh! with gentle Smiles relieve me;
Let no more false Hope deceive me;
Nor vain Fears instit a Pain.

Iphis. Ill fuits the Voice of Love when Glory calls,

And bids thee follow Jephtha to the Field.

Act there the Hero, and let rival Deeds

Proclaim Thee worthy to be call'd his Son:

And Hamor shall not want his due Reward.

AIR.

Take the Heart you fondly gave;

Lodg'd in your Breast with mine;

Thus with double Ardour brave;

Sure Conquest shall be thine.

RECITATIVE.

Hamor. I go; --- My Soul inspir'd by thy Command, Thirsts for the Battel. -- I'm already crown'd With the victorious Wreath; and Thou, fair Prize, More worth than Fame or Conquest, thou art mine.

On the benighted TraT H Ut G

These Labores past, how happy we to the How glorious will they prove to the Line of Love! Execut.

S C E N E IV.

Jephtha alone.

RECITATIVE.

What mean these doubtful Fancies of the Brain? Visions of Joy rise in my raptur'd Soul,
There play awhile, and set in darksome Night.
Strange Ardour fires my Breast; my Arms seem strung With tenfold Vigour, and my crested Helm
To reach the Skies.—Be humble still, my Soul.——

It is the Spirit of God; in whose great Name I offer up my Vow.

RECITATIVE accompany'd.

If, Lord, sustain'd by thy almighty Pow'r,

Ammon I drive, and his insulting Bands,

From these our long-uncultivated Lands,

And safe return a glorious Conqueror;

What, or who-e'er shall first salute mine Eyes,

Shall be for ever thine, or fall a Sacrifice.

RECITATIVE.

'Tis faid ._

Enter Ifraelites, &c.

-Attend, ye Chiefs, and with one Voice; Invoke the holy Name of Ifrael's God.

CHORUS.

O God, behold our fore Distress;
Omnipotent, to plague or bless!
But turn thy Wrath, and bless once more
Thy Servants, who thy Name adore. [Excunt.

SCENE V.

Storge, alone.
RECITATIVE.

"Some dire Event hangs o'er our Heads, Some woful Song we have to fing In Mifery extreme.—O, never, never Was my foreboding Mind diffres'd before With fuch incessant Pangs.—

R

AIR.

I offer up my V Scenes of Horror, Scenes of Woe, Rifing from the Shades below, Add new Terror to the Night. While in never ceasing Pain, as the first hand That attends the servile Chain, wo shall most Joyless flow the Hours of Light.

S C E N E VI.

What or to have of

Enter Iphis.

RECITATIVE.

Iphis. "Say, my dear Mother, whence these piercing That force me, like a frighted Bird, to fly [Cries, My Place of Reft?---

--- " For thee I fear, my Child; Storge. Such ghaftly Dreams last Night furpriz'd my Soul.

Iphis. Heed not these black Illusions of the Night, The mocking of unquiet Slumbers; heed them not. My Father, touch'd with a diviner Fire, Already feems to triumph in Success, Nor doubt I but Jehovah hears our Pray'rs.

AIR.

The smiling Dawn of happy Days Presents a Prospect clear; And pleasing Hope's all brightning Rays Dispel each gloomy Fear; While every Charm that Peace displays, Makes Spring-time all the Year. Exeunt. SCENE

SCENE VII.

Enter Zebul, Jephtha, &c.

RECITATIVE.

Zebul. Such, Jephtha, was the haughty King's Reply.—
No Terms, —but Ruin, Slavery, and Death.

Jephtha. Sound then the last Alarm;—and to the Field,
Ye Sons of Israel with intrepid Hearts;
Dependent on the Might of Israel's God.

CHORUS.

When his loud Voice in Thunder spoke,
With conscious Fear the Billows broke,
Observant of his dread Command.
In vain they roll their foaming Tide;
Consin'd by the almighty Pow'r,
That gave them Strength to roar,
They now contract their boistrous Pride,
And lash with idle Rage the laughing Strand.

HARRONG TO LEASE TO LOCAL CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR

PART II. SCENE I.

Enter HAMOR, IPHIS, &c.

RECITATIVE.

Hamor. Lad Tidings, of great Joy to thee, dear Iphis,
And to the House of Israel I bring.
Thus then in brief.—Both Armies in Array
Of Battel rang'd, our General stept forth
And offer'd baughty Ammon Terms of Peace

And offer'd haughty Ammon Terms of Peace, Most just and righteous; these with Scorn refus'd, He bade the Trumpet found: but scarce a Sword Was ting'd in hostile Blood, ere all around The thund'ring Heavens open'd, and pour'd forth Thousand of armed Cherubim: When strait Our general cried; "This is thy Signal, Lord, "I follow thee, and thy bright heav'nly Host. Then rushing on proud Ammon, all aghast, He made a bloody Slaughter, and pursued The slying Foe, till Night bad sheathe the Sword, And taste the Joys of Victory and Peace.

CHORUS.

"Cherub and Scraphim, unbodied Forms,

The Messengers of Fate,

God's dread Command await;

Of swifter Flight, and subtler Frame,

Than Lightning's winged Flame,

They ride on whirlwinds and direct the Storms.

A I R. Hamor to Iphis.

Up the dreadful Steep ascending,

While for Love and Fame contending,

Sought I thee, my glorious Prize.

And now happy in the Blessing,

Thee, my sweetest Joy, possessing,

Other Honours I despise.

RECITATIVE.

Iphis. 'Tis well.-----Haste, haste, ye Maidens, and in richest Robes,
Adorn me, like a stately Bride, to meet
My Father in triumphant Pomp.--And while around the dancing Banners play,

AIR.

AIR

Tune the soft melodious Lute,
Pleasant Harp, and warbling Flute,
To Sounds of rapi raus Joy.
Such as on our solemn Days,
Singing great Jehovah's Praise,
The boly Quine employ.

[Ex

Exeunt.

S'C BOTNET TELL

Enter Zebul, Jephtha, Hamor, &c. bloded

Come to falute the with wir rive Ris Love.

Zebul. Again Heav'n finiles on his repentant People; And Victory spreads wide her filver Wings.

To sooth our Sorrows with a peaceful Calm.

Welling of the R. A. Var.

Freedom now once more possessing,
Peace shall spread with every Blessing,
Triumphant Joy around:
Sion now no more complaining,
Shall, in blissful Plenty reigning,
Thy glarious Praise resound.

RECITATIVE.

Jephtha. Zebul, thy Deeds were valiant, nor less thine, My Hamor, but the Glory is the Lord's.

AIR.

His mighty Arm, with sudden Blow,
Dispers'd and quell'd the haughty Foe.
They fell before him, as when through the Sky,
He bids the sweeping Winds in Vengeance sty.

CHORUS

Canal State

"In Glory high, in Might serene,
He sees, moves all, unmov'd, unseen.
His mighty Arm, with sudden Blow,
Dispers'd, and quell'd the haughty Foe.

S C E N E III.

[Symphony.]

Enter Iphis, Storge, &c.

Iphis. Hail, glorious Conqueror! much lov'd Father, Behold, thy Daughter, and her Virgin Train, [hail! Come to falute thee with all duteous Love.

Zebul. Again Heav'n Ani eAon his repentent People:

Welcome, as the chearful Light,
Driving darkest Shades of Night:
Welcome, as the Spring, that rains
Sweets, and Plenty o'er the Plains!
Not chearful Day,
Nor Spring so gay,
Such mighty Blessings brings,
As Peace on her triumphant Wings.

Semichorus of Virgins.

Welcome Thou, whose Deeds conspire
To provoke the warbling Lyre.
Welcome thou, whom God ordain'd
Guardian Angel of our Land!
Thou wert born, his glorious Name,
And great Wonders to proclaim.

They fell before fav ITATIVE of the

Jephtha. Horrror! Confusion! harsh this music grates Upon

Upon my tasteless Ears Be gone, my Child, Thou haft undone thy Father. Fly, be gone, And leave me to the Rack of wild Despair Frit Iphis.

AIR.

Ge Open thy marble faws, O Tomber II . nombH And hide me, Earth, in thy dark Womb; Ere I the Name of Father flain, and over a And deepest Woe from Conquest gain.

RECTTATO PEND tol am nO

Zebul. Why is my Brother thus afflicted? fay, Why didft Thou fourn thy Daughter's Gratulations. And fling her from Thee with unkind Difdain? Jephtha. O Zebul, Hamory and my dearest Wife, Rehold a wretched Man; Town O and O . lode Z Thrown from the Summit of prefumptuous Joy Down to the lowest Depth of Misery .---Know then, -I yow'd the first I faw should fall igo A Victim to the living God .--- my Daughter-Alas! it was my Daughter, and the dies. Hamor.

RECITATIVE accompany d.

Storge. First perish Thou; and perish all the World! Hath Heav'n then blefs'd us with this only Pledge Of all our Love, this one dear Child, for Thee To be her Murderer ?--- No, cruel Man;

Toka Swift flies flich inews A've beard the mouraful " Let other Greatures die; word toov Its 10 Or Heav'n, Earth, Seas, and Sky, In one Confusion lie. 1 - Dagmund dien back Ere in a Daughter's Blood I a look at mod I So fair, so chaste, so good, a soon at that world A Father's Hand's embrued.

RECETATIVE.

Hamor. If fuch thy cruel Purpose; lo! thy Friend Offers himself a willing Sacrifice,
To save the innocent and beauteous Maid.

AIR.

On me let blind mistaken Zeal
Her utmost Rage employ.
'Twill be a Mercy there to kill,
Where Life can taste no Joy.

O Z. O. OTTETTAUQUY COARCE Wales

Zebul. O spare thy Daughter.—
Storge. ——Spare my Child,
Hamor. ——my Love.

Jephtha. Recorded stands my Vow in Heav'n above.
Storge. Recall the impious Vow, ere 'tis too late.

Hamor. And think not God delights
Zebul. In Moloch's borrid Rites.

Jephtha. I'll hear no more; her Doom is fix'd as Fate.

S C E N E IV.

Enter Iphis.

RECITATIVE.

Iphis. Swift flies fuch News; I've heard the mournful Of all your Sorrows.—Of my Father's Vow [Cause Heav'n spoke its Approbation by Success: Gilead hath triumph'd.—Israel is free.

RECI-

RECITATIVE accompany'd.

For Joys fo vast, too little is the Price
Of one poor Life.—but oh! accept it, Heav'n,
A grateful Victim, and thy Blessings still
Pour on my Country, Friends, and dearest Father!

AIR.

Happy they; this vital Breath
With Content I shall resign;
And not murmur, or repine,
Sinking in the Arms of Death.

RECITATIVE accompany'd.

Jephtha. Deeper and deeper still, thy Goodness, Child, Pierceth a Father's bleeding Heart, and checks The cruel Sentence on my falt'ring Tongue. Oh! let me whifper it to the raging Winds, Or howling Deferts; for the Ears of Men-It is too shocking .--- Yet---have I not vow'd? And can I think the great Jehovah fleeps, Like Chemosh, and fuch fabled Deities? No, no; Heav'n heard my Thoughts, and wrote them It must be so .- 'Tis This that racks my Brain, Idown .-And pours into my Breast a thousand Pangs, That lash me into Madness .--- Horrid Thought !---My only Daughter!---and fo dear a Child, Doom'd by a Father!---Yes,---the Vow is past, And Gilead hath triumph'd o'er his Foes .---Therefore, to-morrow's Dawn---I can no more.

-1232

CHORUS.

How dark, O Lord, are thy Decrees!

All hid from mortal Sight!

All our Joys to Sorrow turning,

And our Triumphs into Mourning,

As the Night succeeds the Day.

No certain Bliss,

No solid Peace,

We Mortals know,

On Earth below;

Yet on this Maxim still obey;

Whatever is, is right.



PART III. SCENE I.

Jернтна, Ірнія, Priefts, 8℃.

RECITATIVE accompany'd.

Јернтна.

IDE thou thy hated Beams, O Sun, in Clouds, And Darkness, deep as is a Father's Woe:

RECITATIVE.

A Father, offering up his only Child In vow'd Return for Victory and Peace.

AIR.

Waft her, Angels, through the Skies,
Far above you azure Plain;
Glorious there, like you, to rife,
There, like you for ever reign.

RECI-

RECITATIVE.

Iphis. Ye facred Priests, whose Hands ne'er yet were With human Blood, why are ye thus afraid [stain'd To execute my Father's Will?—The Call Of Heav'n, (for sure it is the Call of Heav'n,) With humble Resignation I obey.

AIR.

Farewel, ye limpid Springs and Floods, Ye flow'ry Meads, and mazy Woods; Farewel, thou busy World, where reign Short Hours of Joy, and Years of Pain. Brighter Scenes I seek above, In the Realms of Peace and Love.

Chorus of Priefts.

Doubtful Fear, and reverent Awe
Strike us, Lord, while here we how:
Check'd by thy all-facred Law,
Yet commanded by the Vow.
In this Distress, Lord, hear our Pray'r,
And thy determin'd Will declare.

[Symphony.] RECITATIVE.

Angel. Rise, Jephtha, -- And, ye reverend Priests, with-The slaughtrous Hand. -- No Vow can disannul [hold The Law of God. -- Nor such was its Intent When rightly scann'd; -- and yet shall be fulfill'd. ---Thy Daughter, Jephtha, thou must dedicate To God, in pure and Virgin-state for ever,

C 2

As not an Object meet for Sacrifice, Else had she fallen an Holocaust to God. The Holy Spirit, that dictated thy Vow, Bade thus explain it, and approves your Faith.

AIR.

Happy, Iphis, shalt thou live;
While to thee the Virgin Choir
Tune their Harps of golden Wire,
And their yearly Tribute give.

Happy, Iphis, all thy Days, (Pure, angelic, Virgin-state,) Shalt thou live; and Ages late Crown thee with immortal Praise.

RECITATIVE accompany'd.

Jephtha. For ever bleffed be thy holy Name,

Lord God of Israel!---

CHORUS.

Theme sublime of endless Praise, Just and righteous are thy Ways; And thy Mercies still endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.

SCENE II.

Enter Zebul, Storgè, Hamor, &c.

RECITATIVE.

Zebul. Let me congratulate this happy Turn, My honour'd Brother, Judge of Israel;

Thy

A day

Thy Faith, thy Courage, Constancy and Truth, Nations shall sing; and in their just Applause, All join to celebrate thy Daughter's Name.

PUATICE

Laud ber, all ye Virgin Train,
In glad Songs of choicest Strain:
Ye blest Angels all around,
Laud ber in melodious Sound:
Virtues, that to you belong,
Love, and Truth demand the Song.

RECITATIVE accompany'd.

Hamor. With Transport, Iphis, I behold thy Safety. But must for ever mourn so dear a Loss:
Dear, tho' great Jephtha were to honour me
Still with the Name of Son.---

Iphis. My faithful Hamor, may that Providence Which gently claims, or forceth our Submission, Direct thee to some happier Choice.---

DUETTO.

Iphis. All that is in Hamor mine, Freely I to Heaven refign.

Hamor. All that is in Iphis mine, Freely I to Heaven refign.

Iphis. Duteous to the Will supreme, Still my Hamor I'll esteem.

Hamor. Duteous to Almighty Pow'r, Still my Iphis I'll adore.

Both. { Joys triumphant crown thy Days, And thy Name eternal Praise.

Jephtha.

Jephtha. Storge. Storge. And thy Name eternal Praise.

CHORUS.

Ye House of Gilead, with one Voice, In Bleffings manifold rejoice, Freed from War's destructive Sword: Peace her Plenty 'round shall spread, While in Virtue's Path ye tread. So bleft are they who fear the Lord.

But must for ever mound so deet a Lois:

Dear's the erest Rebith were to konoile me

Byd Lond I wild and and Hallelujah.

Hamor. Daycone to



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With all that Earth or Heav'n could beflow,
To make her amiable: —— On the came,
Grace was in all her Steps, Heav'n in her Eye,
In every Gesture, Dignity and Love.

MILTON.

Of Infincerity. Of Friendship. Of Doing Good Offices. Of Anger and Refentment; Of Gentleness and Modesty. Of Keeping and Imparring Secrets. Of Receiving and Faying Visits. The CONTENTS. Of Politeness in Religion, and against Superflition. Of Devotion. Of Behaviour at Church. Of the Duties and Decorums of Civil Life. Of Behaviour to our Superiors. Of Conversation. Of Complaisance. Of Flattery and Servility. Of appearing Absent in Company. Of Contradiction. Of the Imitation of others. Of Compliments and Ceremony. Of Asking Questions. Of Talking before Servants. Of Behaviour towards rude young Fellows. Of Ridicule. Of Calumny and Detraction. Of Prejudice. Of Politicks. Of Trusting to Appearances and Reports. Of Hope and Belief. Of Idleness. Of being too inquifitive. Of Whilpering and Laughing in Company. Of Applauding and Candring People rafhly. Of Mimicking others. Of being Blind to what gives us Offence. Of Gallantry from the Men. Of Friendship with Men. Of Appearing often in Publick Places. Of Houswifry. Of Frugality and Covetousness. Of the Learning proper to a young Lady. Of Letter-Writing. Of Love. Of the Choice and Entertainment of Books. Of Drefs. Of Behaviour at Table, Of Behaviour at Affemblies, Operas, and Of Matrimony. Of Duty to Parents. Of Pride and Condescension. Of True and False Nobility. Of Self-Conceit and Love of Vanity. Plays. Of Gaming. Of Self-Convertation. Of Humility and Pride, Of Affectation.

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